

INFORMATION PAPER

CECW-EH-W
8 April 1997

SUBJECT: Water Control Data System (WCDS) Modernization

1. Purpose. The WCDS is the automated information system that supports the water control mission of the Corps of Engineers, thereby managing the nations water resources to provide the highest national benefits within the authorized project purposes.

2. Facts.

a. The Corps operates 541 reservoirs for a broad range of uses including flood control, irrigation, water quality, hydropower, navigation, water supply, recreation and a number of other purposes. Another 106 non Corps (Section 7) projects receive operational instructions from the Corps for flood control operation pursuant to Section 7 of the 1944 Flood Control Act and the Federal Power Act of 1920. Efficient and effective water management of this system of water resource projects, often for multiple purposes, requires the collection, assessment, storage and dissemination of large amounts of data and information. Much of this information is redistributed to numerous other Federal, state and local agencies. To perform this task in a timely and efficient manner requires a modern and sophisticated Water Control Data Systems (WCDS).

b. There are several ongoing activities relative to the modernization of WCDS. These efforts include; purchase of new hardware, modernization and standardization of a suite of water management and data handling software, acquisition of Next Generation Radar (NEXRAD) rainfall data for use in water control runoff models, transition of the WCDS to the Corps corporate Oracle database, and development of the Mississippi River Mainstem Hydraulic Model.

c. The WCDS is considered a major Automated Information System (AIS) and is therefore required to comply with Life Cycle Management Information System (LCMIS) regulations. This effort is being coordinated by CECW-EH and will provide the guidelines for WCDS development nationwide. The total modernization program, which began in FY 1994, is expected to be a six year effort.

d. The WCDS modernization program will leverage the resources of the Corps to construct a well engineered suite of WCDS software that will be used Corp-wide to meet the needs of water control/quality managers.

e. HQUSACE is committed to the modernization effort and has received full support and cooperation throughout the Corps in the development of this standardized system. This modernization will greatly increase the performance and capability of the WCDS and give vastly

improved service to the ever increasing customer base that the WCDS serves.

3. This information paper has been approved by MG Russell L. Fuhrman, Director of Civil Works.

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